Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A chemically defined medium for fermentation culture of a strain of the genus *Candida*, which comprises 1-10 g/l of urea,1-10g/l of potassium diphosphate, 0.01-1 g/l of magnesium sulfate, 0.1-10 mg/l of $MnSO_4 \cdot 4H_2O$, 0.1-10mg/l of $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $NaMoO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $ZnS0_4 \cdot 7H_20$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $AlCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $CuCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, 0.01-5 mg/l of H_3BO_3, 1-100 mg/l of $FeSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of ascorbic acid, 1-100 mg/l of biotin, 1-100 mg/l of choline, and 0.1-10 mg/l of pyridoxine.

2. (Original) A process for producing xylitol in high yield by recycling culture of a strain of the genus *Candida*, which comprises the steps of :

inoculating the strain in a xylose-containing medium and culturing the strain in the xylose-containing medium in a bioreactor;

releasing a culture from the bioreactor and introducing a fresh xylosecontaining medium to the bioreactor continuously;

separating the strain and a culture filtrate from the culture; and

recycling the strain to the bioreactor and recovering xylitol from the culture filtrate.

3. (Original The process of claim 2, wherein the strain of the genus *Candida* is *Candida tropicalis* or its mutant strain.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the xylose-containing medium is [[the]] a chemically defined medium ~~of claim 1~~ that comprises 1-10 g/l of urea,1-10g/l of potassium diphosphate, 0.01-1 g/l of magnesium sulfate, 0.1-10 mg/l of $MnSO_4 \cdot 4H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $NaMoO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $ZnSO_4 \cdot 7H_20$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $AlCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of $CuCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, 0.01-5 mg/l of H_3BO_3, 1-100 mg/l of $FeSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$, 0.1-10 mg/l of ascorbic acid, 1-100 mg/l of biotin, 1-100 mg/l of choline, and 0.1-10 mg/l of pyridoxine; or a complex medium.

5. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the culturing is performed by a fed-batch culture or a batch culture.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5, wherein in the fed-batch culture, the medium is gradually supplemented with xylose so that the concentration of xylose is maintained at 40-50 g/l on the basis of the medium.

7. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 5, and 6~~ claim 2, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

8. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the separation of the strain and the culture filtrate from the culture is performed by a vacuum microfiltration system or a centrifuge.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2[[or 8]], wherein the separated strain is concentrated to a density of10-l00 g/l and recycled.

10. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

11. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

12. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

13. (New) The process of claim 8, wherein the separated strain is concentrated to a density of10-l00 g/l and recycled.